

Message Text

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TO USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 077412

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 77412 ACTION ROME INFO SECDEF/ISA/FMRA, CSAF/X
OXXIF, HQ ADC ENT AFB COLO/XPQDS

DATED 5 APR 75

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 077412

E.O. 11652: ADS - DECLASSIFY WHEN OPERATING RIGHTS CONTAINED

HEREIN HAVE BEEN GRANTED

TAGS: MARR, TSPA, IT, OTRA

SUBJECT: BAKER-NUNN RELOCATION SURVEY

1. THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE'S AEROSPACE DEFENSE
COMMAND (ADC), IS PLANNING A SPACETRACK SYSTEM CON-
SISTING OF A WORLDWIDE NETWORK OF SENSORS AND SUPPORT
FACILITIES WHICH WILL COLLECTIVELY FUNCTION TO PROVIDE
DATA ON MANMADE OBJECTS IN SPACE. THE SPACETRACK SYSTEM
NOW CONSISTS OF AN OPERATIONAL CENTER IN COLORADO SPRINGS
AND SEVERAL WIDELY DISPERSED SENSORS.

2. THE BAKER-NUNN CAMERA, SUCH AS THE ONE LOCATED AT
SAN VITO, ITALY IS TYPICAL OF THE OPTICAL SENSORS
PROPOSED FOR THE NETWORK. SUCH CAMERAS WILL BE USED TO
(1) TRACK THOSE OBJECTS WHICH, BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT
RADAR CROSS SECTION OR TOO GREAT A RANGE, CANNOT BE
OBSERVED BY OTHER TYPE SENSORS. (2) PROVIDE OBSERVATIONS
FOR HIGHLY ACCURATE ORBIT DETERMINATION IN SELECTED
SATELLITES FOR SYSTEM CALIBRATION, EVALUATION, AND
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QUALITY CONTROL, AND (3) PROVIDE HIGHLY ACCURATE

OBSERVATIONS ON SELECTED SATELLITES OF PARTICULAR INTEREST FOR SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES.

3. THE SAN VITO CAMERA CAN BE USED IN THIS NEW SYSTEM ONLY IF CERTAIN OPERATIONAL DEFICIENCIES CAUSED BY WEATHER AND LOCAL LIGHTING CONDITIONS ARE OVERCOME. REALIZING THE ENORMOUS UNDERTAKING THIS WOULD INVOLVE, THE AIR FORCE WOULD THEREFORE PREFER TO RELOCATE THE CAMERA TO SOME MORE OPERATIONALLY DESIRABLE AREA IN ITALY WHERE THE WEATHER AND LOCAL LIGHTING CONDITIONS ARE MORE FAVORABLE.

4. SITE SURVEYS ARE PROPOSED FOR LOCATIONS WHICH FIT THE ABOVE CRITERIA AND HAVE BEEN SELECTED BASED UPON A VATICAN OBSERVATORY STUDY OF NIGHT-SKY BRIGHTNESS. THESE ARE CATANIA AND SIGONELLA ON SICILY AND DECIMONANNU, CAGLIARI, AND MT. LIMBARA ON SARDINIA. SHOULD SITE SURVEYS CULMINATE IN DETERMINATION THAT ONE OF THE LOCATIONS IS OPERATIONALLY SUITABLE, A FORMAL REQUEST WILL FOLLOW FROM DEPARTMENT TO EMBASSY DESCRIBING PROPOSAL FULLY AND PROVIDING BASIS FOR MAKING APPROACH TO GOI.

5. SURVEY WILL REQUIRE BRINGING IN APPROXIMATELY SIXTY POUNDS OF HAND CARRIED EQUIPMENT, WHICH IS US GOVERNMENT OWNED AND WHICH WILL BE CARRIED OUT WHEN THE TEAM LEAVES. THE EQUIPMENT CONSISTS OF 35 MM CAMERAS FOR SITE PHOTOGRAPHS AND A QUESTAR TELESCOPE/ ASTRONOMICAL MEASUREMENTS. APPROXIMATELY SIX MILITARY/DOD CIVILIAN PERSONNEL, ALL US CITIZENS, WILL BE REQUIRED TO MAKE THE SURVEY. ANTICIPATE TEAM LEADER TO BE NO HIGHER IN RANK THAN COLONEL OR LT COLONEL.

6. IF CAMERA IS INSTALLED, ANY AND ALL RAW TRACKING DATA WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO GOI AUTHORITIES UPON REQUEST. IN ADDITION, THE SITE WILL HONOR REQUESTS FOR DATA AND/OR PHOTOGRAPHS FROM HOST NATION ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORIES, SOCIETIES, OR UNIVERSITIES ON A NON-INTERFERENCE, NO COST BASIS.

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7. REQUEST EMBASSY SEEK GOI APPROVAL FOR SURVEY WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT IT IS OUR INTENTION TO RELOCATE SAN VITO CMERA SHOULD ONE OF THE PROPOSED SITES PROVE FAVORABLE. SHOULD PROPOSAL MEET WITH ACCEPTANCE, FINALIZED TRAVEL DETAILS, INCLUDING ITINERARY, WILL BE PROVIDED TO USDAO FOR OBTAINING EMBASSY CLEARANCE. ANTICIPATE WEEK OF 26-30 MAY 75, FOR SURVEY. INGERSOLL UNQUOTE SISCO

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